

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A laminate comprising a peelable top layer, a substrate, and a bonding layer between said top layer and said substrate, wherein at least one of said substrate and said top layer is porous and an adhesive for forming said bonding layer comprises the following components:

(A) an aqueous dispersion containing a polymer, which has properties that a dried film of said aqueous dispersion has a tensile strength of 1 to 28 MPa and a percentage elongation of 100 to 2000%; and

(B) a water-based adhesive composition comprising microspheres with thermal expansion capability, each of which comprises a polymer shell encapsulating a gas,

~~whereby, when said laminate is heated, said microspheres increase in volume~~ wherein said laminate has a property that upon heating, said microspheres increase in volume, thereby facilitating peelability of said top layer from said substrate laminate.

Claim 2 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein said top layer is a decorated metal plate, and said substrate is a porous board.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion (A) comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate polymer or copolymer, urethane polymer, acrylic polymer or copolymer, silicone polymer, chloroprene elastomer, and styrene-butadiene elastomer.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion (A) comprises an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion (A) comprises an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer and an anionic polyurethane dispersion.

Claim 6 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 5, wherein the anionic polyurethane dispersion is an anionic polyurethane dispersion with sulfonate groups.

Claim 7 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein an amount of said microspheres is in a range of 2 to 100 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by solid content of polymer in said aqueous dispersion (A).

Claim 8 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein said microspheres have properties of an expanding magnification of 20 times to 100 times, and an expanding start temperature of 90°C to 150°C.

Claim 9 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 1, wherein said top layer is a plastic sheet and said substrate is a porous board.

Claim 10 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 4, wherein a toluene insoluble fraction of a dried film of the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer is 70 wt% or more.

Claim 11 (Original): The laminate as set forth in claim 5, wherein an amount of said microspheres is in a range of 2 to 100 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of

solids content of total polymer in the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer and the anionic polyurethane dispersion.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method of peeling off said top layer from said laminate as set forth in claim 1 comprising the step of irradiating said laminate with a light, while heating said laminate.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said light is far infrared having a wavelength of 5 to 30 μm .

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein said laminate is irradiated for 2 minutes or more with the far infrared, while being heated at a temperature of 150°C or more.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said light is ultraviolet.

Claim 16 (New): The laminate as set forth in claim 4, wherein a copolymerization ratio by weight of ethylene/vinyl acetate in said ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer is in a range of about 5-35/95-65.

Claim 17 (New): The laminate as set forth in claim 16, wherein said copolymerization ratio by weight is about 10-30/90-70.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by rewording the limitation headed by the term "whereby", as supported in the specification at page 4, lines 3-5. No change in claim scope is intended or effected, except that the last word "substrate" has been replaced with --laminate--, which is more accurate, and which is supported in the specification above. (This issue is discussed *infra* with regard to the prior art rejections.)

New Claims 16 and 17 have been added, as supported in the specification at page 8, lines 15-17.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-11, 16 and 17 are now active in the application. Claims 12-15 stand withdrawn from consideration, but are subject to rejoinder.